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Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The aims and purposes of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society are alleviating human suffering and disseminating the concepts of international human rights based on the Geneva Conventions and their protocols.

The areas of work of the Society are disaster management and dissemination of human values and ideals, provision of health and medical services and development services to the most vulnerable, and promoting compliance with the Millennium Development Goals, especially in the areas of eradicating poverty and promoting primary education and maternal health.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: Social Development projects by the Society involve urban development in El-Nahda city, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and in the Zeinhom slum area; rural development in Upper Egypt villages; development of the El-Deweiqa district; protecting working girls in Helwan in cooperation with UNICEF; preventing child labour in El-Fayoum; training schoolchildren; and a project on the role of Egyptian youth in general life, funded by Catholic Relief Services and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and aimed at improving their social responsibility.

In relation to health a project by the Society supports reproductive health services and family planning. In cooperation with the NGO Service Center and with funding from USAID, since 2005 20 clinics have been established, 80 physicians and nurses and 260 community leaders have been trained, and 520 female volunteers have been trained to work as health leaders.

A project on health and environmental awareness, funded by KfW, was implemented in 511 public primary schools in El-Fayoum for 299,114 pupils between 6 and 12 years old; 10,592 supervisors and 1,535 workers were trained.

The obstetrics and gynaecology hospital at "Ain Shams University" was renovated, in cooperation with a group of wives of diplomats. An electronic communication system and an accurate recording system were introduced, training programmes were conducted and the hygiene and sterilization levels were upgraded.

In a project to control AIDS, four television spots were developed and 293 courses were conducted for Egyptian Red Crescent leaders in the governorates and at NGOs working with addicts and female delinquents.

A new hospital was established in Qena. It has a blood bank with a vehicle for blood collection, a facility for giving blood to children, an outpatient clinic, four operating rooms and units for different specializations. The hospital is the largest private hospital in Upper Egypt.

Ten first aid training centres were equipped with the latest training equipment and the number of first aid trainers increased from 33 to 97. During the period 2003-2009, 100,000 young men and women were trained and some Egyptian Red Crescent trainers were selected to train trainers at the regional and international levels.

The Society has conducted activities to combat avian influenza since February 2006, involving training of volunteers, identifying focal persons and sensitizing society, with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups.

The humanitarian pandemic preparedness project, carried out in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and with funding from USAID, involves development of a contingency plan and setting up a network to work within the framework of the comprehensive national plan for pandemic preparedness and response. The plan aims at minimizing morbidity and mortality and increasing community resilience in the three focal areas of public health, food security and livelihood.

The project on learning through fun to sensitize against the avian influenza, in cooperation with UNICEF, aims to sensitize primary schools students to protect them against avian influenza. A total of 7,812 tool bags were distributed and 3,600,000 students were sensitized.

In support of blood banks and centres, the Society encourages the donation of blood through six blood banks equipped with high technology and scientifically run to control quality. Personal and technical blood data are registered and the number of collected blood bags has increased from 29,186 in 2003 to 47,239 in 2008.

Through a donation from Japan, the Egyptian Red Crescent Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre has been provided with medical equipment.

In the context of disaster preparedness and response, the Society has provided human and material resources in the preparation stage, participated with the authorities in various relief works in the response stage and worked to help affected people to return to their ordinary life in the recovery stage. It has rendered services during national disasters, the most important of which were the explosions in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2005, the Al Salam ferry disaster in 1998, the Qalyub train collision in 2006, the Qale't El-Kabsh fire in 2007 and the El-Deweka rockslide in 2008.

The Egyptian Red Crescent has also played a great role in extending help and providing relief at the international level, especially at the Arab and regional level. During the past six years, the Society had a considerable and effective role in providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, caring for the stranded Palestinian people on the Egyptian side following closure of the border crossing in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and successfully providing for the needs of hundreds of thousands of Gaza citizens flowing into Egypt in January 2008.

In the attack against Gaza in December 2008, an operating room functioned daily around the clock. The Society sent a number of volunteers and workers to its branch in El-Arish to augment the workforce of the branch. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak presided over a number of joint meetings with Arab and international organizations and the United Nations to coordinate sending relief supplies consisting of 6,000 tons of medicines and medical supplies, 250 ambulances, 12,000 tons of foodstuff, 6,000 tons of relief items and 7 generators. Aid is still being sent.

The Society has 26 youth clubs spread throughout Egypt in each governorate, involving young people of both sexes aged from 16 years to 35 years, in addition to more than 20 branches of these clubs in towns and villages reaching 10,000 young men and women. There are youth exchange programmes among Red Crescent societies. The Egyptian Red Crescent Society held three international youth

conferences and young people from the Society travelled abroad to more than 20 camps between 2004 and July 2009.

In most of the branches, activities included development of buildings, establishing nurseries, libraries, physiotherapy centres, literacy class, clinics, information technology clubs, houses for expatriate women, blood banks, and bakeries and extension of buildings and hospitals.

After two terms serving as Vice President, the Society presided over the AIDS Control Committee, and contributed to approving the strategy of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2010 and developing the regulations of the Federation. The Society is an active member of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization. The International Federation has contributed financing for many Egyptian Red Crescent projects and the International Committee of the Red Cross has supported the Al-Arish branch, in its work caring for the Palestinians stuck in Egypt and training youth.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society works with various United Nations entities in the humanitarian and relief field. With the World Health Organization, the Society is involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, especially with respect to modes of infection and lifestyle. In combating influenza epidemics in schools, the Society works to raise awareness, promote healthy lifestyles, avoid unhealthy habits, etc. It also provides medical items to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. With UNICEF, the Society combats influenza epidemics in schools, and cares for children at risk in the Nahda area and cares for working girls in the Helwan area, providing medical and social care. With the World Food Programme, the Society provided food aid during the Gaza crisis. With the World Bank, the Society has provided financing for development, especially in some of the poorest villages. With the International Labour Organization, the Society works to combat child labour in hazardous jobs and tries to upgrade the financial situation of the family to help children return to education. With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Society supplied non-medical material during the Gaza crisis. With the United Nations Population Fund, the Society has successfully implemented an extensive reproductive health project, which included raising awareness and providing medical care and contraceptives. With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Society has been involved in combating the avian influenza pandemic. The Society has cooperated with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, during the Gaza crisis and in combating the avian influenza pandemic. It has coordinated with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction on mitigation of risk. With the United Nations Development Programme, the Society has been involved in humanitarian activities for the Palestinian people. Finally, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society participates in celebrating many United Nations International days, in particular World Tuberculosis Day, World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, International Youth Day, World Humanitarian Day and World AIDS Day.

2. Integrated Care Society (Special; 1977)

1. Introduction

In 1978, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt, established a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the mandate of galvanizing different areas of society in socio-economic development. The Integrated Care Society (ICS) started its work in school libraries in underprivileged areas of greater Cairo. The libraries were used as platform to improve the schools' general conditions and involving parents and the surrounding communities in their children's future.

Over the years, ICS has changed its constitution and expanded and developed its services in accordance with new socio-economic needs. From school libraries, it expanded to public libraries for children, then to public libraries for both children and adults. It created replicable models for teaching reading, first in its own libraries and then, expanding its scope to five governorates in Egypt and then, with the help of Government agencies and ministries and NGOs to all Egypt, it helped create the "family library", which is a reprint of hundreds of titles every year at less than actual cost and making them available to the general public.

ICS expanded its areas of activities from libraries to development in disadvantaged areas, offering many programmes for improving family economic status, empowering women economically and socially, training and empowering young men and women, helping to create jobs and improving infrastructure (water, electricity, sewerage). From 1990, ICS has added to its activities services for children with special needs, who are important but neglected members of society. ICS owns and runs two centres for children with disabilities (Downs syndrome, cerebral palsy) with services from early detection, to treatment and integration in schools. At the present, ICS has 20 locations in five governorates and a large trained and qualified staff.

The activities of ICS follow three parallel tracks, described below.

Cultural development. In public libraries, ICS offers reading and research services, lends books and offers electronic access to a membership of more than 25,000. It offers educational training courses in languages (English, French, German), information technology courses, art courses, lectures and field trips to museums and important sites, and theatre and film showings. ICS has a division that works to encourage the production and dissemination of good children's books. The Egyptian Board of Books for Young People encourages writers and illustrators, young and old, as well as publishers, through training events, workshops, conferences and prizes.

Socio-economic development. ICS offers a whole range of activities in disadvantaged areas, ranging from literacy programmes, to helping children who have left school, to building and operating kindergartens, to microfinance, to lending women and young people money to start their own projects helping thus to solve unemployment problems. It offers very extensive vocational training, sports programmes, protection programmes for children facing family violence and health and environmental awareness programmes.

Care and helping children with special needs. In addition to its own two centres, ICS works in tandem with the Ministry of Education to improve the conditions of schools, teachers and students and their families (in 16 schools).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In more than 30 years of existence, ICS has cooperated in successful programmes with United Nations entities. It has ongoing programmes since 1992 with the United Nations Children's Fund for the protection of children at risk. ICS has worked with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization since 2007 on the Maadi Public Library (the second largest in Egypt after the Bibliotheca Alexandria), where courses for international computer driving licence certification are offered. Two more sites will be added in 2010. The International Labour Organization has worked with ICS to offer workshops and training courses for occupational and health safety for young people.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

ICS has carried out the following activities related to implementing the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: eradicating poverty and hunger in its socio-economic development projects.

Goal 2: through its libraries and projects, working actively to achieve universal primary education offering supplementary tools to make up shortfalls in public schools.

Goal 5: addressing issues of maternal health through awareness programmes and providing help and advice at a hospital in one of the most congested areas of Egypt, Mainsheet Nasser.

Goal 7: ensuring environmental awareness programmes in all its locations (the green corner), choosing to finance only environmentally sound projects, empowering local and national NGOs working in environmental sustainability, and pursuing a close and ongoing relationship with the Egyptian Environmental Protection Agency.

ICS has not participated directly during the reporting period in major conferences or United Nations meetings. It has fully focused its attention and efforts on enlarging its fields of activities and on empowering local people, working as one of the major and largest NGOs in Egypt. It has built an excellent network with United Nations entities in the country, as well as with the World Bank, major international companies such as Microsoft, and with Egyptian and regional private and public entities.

3. International Commission of Jurists (Special; 1957)

I. Introduction

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), founded in Berlin in 1952, is dedicated to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights and the rule of law. What distinguishes ICJ is its impartial, objective and authoritative legal approach to the promotion and protection of human rights through the rule of law and the administration of justice. The Commission works at the international, regional and national levels to ensure unconditional observance, effective application and further development of international law in order to promote and protect human rights. In 2005, ICJ acted on its commitment to decentralize and set up field presences in order to have an impact on legal communities around the world, aiming to help enhance compliance with international law and increase its access to information and its impact on advocacy and capacity-building. During that year, ICJ began a process of gradual growth to implement its priorities and deepen the effect of its work. New programmes were initiated, such as the global security and rule of law programme and the international economic relations programme. Over the period 2005 to 2007, in order to allow the organization to respond to new challenges to protect human rights and implement its growing programme of work, ICJ tripled its staff and doubled its budget. During this reporting period, ICJ established several country and regional offices: in 2005, a country office in Nepal and a regional Asia-Pacific office in Thailand; in 2007, a subregional Central America office in Guatemala; and in 2008, a regional Africa office in South Africa.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

United Nations Commission on Human Rights

During the sixty-first session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, aside from the traditional focus on issues of impunity, and reparation and enforced disappearance, ICJ made oral interventions following a new initiative at the Commission; a resolution on the right to truth. It also organized a side event, in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to discuss the role of the Commission in relation to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Also in 2005, ICJ held two parallel events during the Commission's session: Human rights protection in the fight against terrorism: what role for the Commission on Human Rights? and Counter-terrorism and human rights: regional perspectives. As ICJ continued to call for the creation of a mandate for an independent expert on counter-terrorism and human rights, after three years of intensive advocacy by ICJ and other organizations, the Commission finally appointed an independent expert on counter-terrorism and human rights in 2005. In addition, significant efforts were also made by ICJ to promote the reform of the Commission, including through position papers, interventions and participation in the seminar organized to that end by the United Nations in October 2005.

In 2005, ICJ contributed to the development of the draft principles governing the administration of justice through military tribunals (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/9) of the

Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Related to this issue, ICJ co-organized two expert meetings on the scope of jurisdiction of military tribunals; in 2006, jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and in 2007, jointly with the OHCHR and the Supreme Military Tribunal of Brazil. Both meetings were attended by senior military lawyers, senior judges, representatives of regional human rights bodies, researchers and human rights experts.

Human Rights Council

In 2005 and 2006, ICJ played a leading role in the establishment of the Human Rights Council, which replaced UNCHR. It advocated for the Council to be mandated to prevent gross and systematic human rights violations, respond to all urgent and chronic human rights situations, address thematic concerns, and continue to develop international law. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/251, in March 2006, by which the Assembly established the Council, ICJ participated in the Council's institution-building and presented position papers on various mechanisms that the Council assumed from the Human Rights Commission.

ICJ issued position papers, advocated for the preservation of independence and impartiality of special procedures of the Council, and helped to shape an improved complaints procedure and the Advisory Body, to serve as a thematic think tank. In 2007, the universal periodic review of the Council was established. In that regard, ICJ tried to safeguard space for NGOs to make submissions to the universal periodic review and influence the recommendations, and working with other civil society actors to preserve a critical space for NGOs to address urgent country situations.

The thematic priorities of ICJ in the Council sessions in 2007 and 2008 included accountability for human rights violations wherever they occurred; safeguards of independence and impartiality of the judiciary; observance of human rights in counter-terrorism, including a fair trial and other due process guarantees; prohibition against torture and other ill treatment; and limitations to restrictions on free speech and freedom of assembly. Furthermore, in the Council's regular and special sessions in 2008, ICJ continued its advocacy to strengthen the Council's effectiveness and, through universal periodic review submissions, interventions and organization of side-events, it drew the Council's attention to acute human rights situations, such as those in Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

Other activities

During the reporting period, ICJ was engaged in drafting and adoption of the following instruments of international law: (a) Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law (General Assembly resolution 60/147, annex); (b) Set of Principles for the protection and the promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity (taken note of by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 2005/66); (c) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I); and (d) International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (General Assembly resolution 61/177, annex).

The organization continued its advocacy for effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. During 2005, ICJ participated in the Open-ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and made several oral statements and joint written submissions. In 2007, ICJ continued to take part in the Working Group and commented on the Chair's report containing draft elements of the Optional Protocol. During 2008, ICJ played an instrumental role in drafting and adoption of the Optional Protocol by the Human Rights Council and its adoption by the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 63/117, annex). In parallel, ICJ completed a comprehensive legal commentary, scheduled to be launched in relation to the opening of the Optional Protocol for signature in 2009.

In addition, ICJ also prepared legal submissions to a number of United Nations treaty bodies, such as its 2007 submissions to the Human Rights Committee on the administration of justice in Sudan, to the Committee against Torture in May 2007 on the definition of torture in the criminal legislation of Poland, to the Committee against Torture in May 2008 on the definition of torture in the criminal legislation of Sweden and Iceland, and to the Human Rights Committee in July 2008 on compliance with due process guarantees, including a fair trial, when countering terrorism in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2006, ICJ submitted legal comments on draft general comments as follows: (a) draft general comment No. 32 of the Human Rights Committee on the right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial; (b) in 2007, draft general comment No. 19 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to social security; (c) draft general comment No. 2 of the Committee against Torture on the prohibition of torture and the duty of the States parties to implement article 2 of the Convention against Torture, Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and (d) second submission on draft general comment No. 32 in the Human Rights Committee on the right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial.

In 2008, ICJ submitted legal comments on draft general comments as follows: (a) draft general comment No. 21 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to participate in cultural life and draft general comment No. 20 on the principle of non-discrimination; and (b) draft general comment No. 33 of the Human Rights Committee on the obligations of States parties under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Another contribution of ICJ to the treaty bodies during the period 2005 to 2008 concerned their institutional reforms. It conducted independent research and presented a reform report in 2008, aimed at ensuring equal implementation and standardized monitoring of all human rights obligations and increasing effectiveness, visibility and accessibility of the treaty bodies. The study was received with interest by various stakeholders, including those working within the treaty body system.

Since the creation of a dedicated programme on international economic relations in 2005, ICJ has been in constant contact and coordination with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of

human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The organization has continuously provided legal and policy expertise and analysis to the Special Representative.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Commission has carried out the following activities to implement the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 8: developing a global partnership for development, and in relation to target 4, in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, providing access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. In 2008, ICJ made submissions and contributed to the draft guidelines for pharmaceutical companies in relation to access to medicines developed by the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

D. Activities in support of global principles

Advocacy by ICJ in support of drafting and then the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has helped to reinforce the commitment of States to develop and ensure effective remedies for victims of violations of economic, social and cultural rights at both the domestic and the international levels. Once the Optional Protocol enters into force, it will help meet the needs of all persons in ensuring the realization of their economic, social and cultural rights, and may contribute to ending poverty and hunger, improving access to education, combating discrimination of women and improving child and maternal health.

In addition to the drafting and adoption of the international law instruments as described above, ICJ produced and published various practitioners' guides on issues such as independence and accountability of the judiciary, right to reparation, and impunity, which analysed the application of relevant international law instruments and referred to related jurisprudence and doctrine of the United Nations bodies and mechanisms.

4. International Press Institute (Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

The International Press Institute (IPI) is a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists from over 115 countries. It is dedicated to the furtherance and safeguarding of press freedom, the protection of freedom of opinion and expression, the promotion of the free flow of news and information, and the improvement of the practices of journalism.

Freedom of expression and opinion as a fundamental human right, as stated in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has been furthered by IPI through its advocacy, the organization of events and press freedom missions and the publication of reports about press freedom violations and media developments around the globe. The South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) was founded in October 2000 and is an IPI affiliate.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

In January 2005, the IPI Director attended a meeting of over 25 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at Vienna University to prepare the creation of a human rights monitoring group, which would promote human rights awareness among intergovernmental organizations based in Vienna, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

In June 2005, the IPI Deputy Director participated in the World Summit on the Information Society contributory conference, "ICT and Creativity", in Vienna. A member of the World Press Freedom Committee, who also took part in the meeting, reported on the results of the conference in a confidential report, "could 'quality control' become a new code word?"

In November 2005, an IPI representative participated in the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis.

In February 2007, the IPI Director took part in the conference entitled, "New media: the press freedom dimension", held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, where he moderated a panel session on "New media in new democracies". Organized by the World Press Freedom Committee, with the support of UNESCO and the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, which includes IPI, the conference examined how new media were expanding press freedom, and what repressive regimes were doing to restrict the free flow of information.

In March 2007, an IPI representative attended a seminar at UNESCO headquarters on "dialogue of cultures and civilizations: a bridge between human rights and moral values".

In June 2007, the IPI Director attended the seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government, which was hosted by the United Nations at its headquarters in Vienna

and featured Heads of State, prime ministers and other eminent personalities and United Nations representatives. The theme was "Building trust in Government", and addressed the need for improvements in good governance.

In September 2007, the IPI Director and Deputy Director attended a special meeting in Paris for UNESCO-affiliated NGOs at the 177th session of the UNESCO Executive Board Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In May 2005, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, spoke at the IPI World Congress in Nairobi about "Pluralism and democracy: the African experience".

UNESCO sponsored the 2005 IPI World Press Freedom Review, a country-by-country analysis of press freedom violations and media developments around the globe (one of the activities undertaken by IPI in support of internationally agreed development goals).

In February 2005, the IPI Director spoke at the international conference, "Media and good governance in the Arab world", organized by the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists in Amman. At the opening session, the IPI Director analysed how the concept of good governance had been developed within the various United Nations organizations and stressed the criteria for good governance in its different contexts: global, national, regional and local, within institutions and within civil society.

In June 2006, the IPI Director joined a discussion with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, organized by the Ambassador of Egypt to Austria. The issues discussed included tolerance, responsibility, limits to basic freedoms and the general dispute about disrespect towards culture, tradition and religion.

In June 2008, the IPI Open Forum, which took place during the 2008 IPI World Congress in Belgrade, bringing together some 400 editors, media executives and leading journalists from 62 countries, was dedicated to "The limits of tolerance on the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

In November 2008, IPI invited a leading human rights lawyer to speak at the IPI Top Media Forum in Vienna about the state of freedom of expression worldwide and the role of the United Nations in protecting that right. The speech outlined historical and current challenges to freedom of expression worldwide and pinpointed the criminalization of defamation and overly broad interpretations of the right to privacy as major obstacles for the media.

Contribution to the United Nations by the International Press Institute in its role as adviser on issues related to media freedom

In November 2005, a meeting in Tunis the day after the World Summit on the Information Society, the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, of which IPI is a member, adopted a resolution which said that the Summit had failed to live up to its promise. The resolution also stated that the Committee had been critical from the start of the decision of the United Nations to hold a major summit meeting dealing with communications and freedom of information in a

country that did not honour its obligations in those fields, and that while many Tunisian democrats had argued that holding the Summit in Tunis would present an opportunity to make their society more open, that hope had been dashed by the Tunisian authorities.

In February 2006, IPI expressed deep concern about the apparent attempt by the Organization of the Islamic Conference to give the new United Nations Human Rights Council the power to prevent instances of intolerance, discrimination, incitement of hatred and violence arising from any actions against religion. That legal initiative was perceived by IPI as an attempt to curb the freedom of the media and stated that, at the international level, there were already sufficient legal protections for freedom of the press and religion. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights sets out legal provisions safeguarding not only freedom of the press (article 19), but also religion (article 18).

In May 2006, IPI expressed concern about the refusal of the United Nations to grant accreditation to journalists from Taiwan Province of China. IPI was informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva refused to grant Taiwanese journalists media accreditation to cover the fifty-ninth World Health Assembly. This was the third year in a row that the United Nations refused to give accreditation to Taiwanese journalists to cover the Assembly.

In September 2006, in a press release, IPI expressed concern over the increasing use of phrases calling for the prevention of the "defamation of religions" in documents issued by the United Nations, saying that the growing acceptance of the phrase at the international level had worrying implications for freedom of the media, as it could provide suitable legal cover and justification for several countries wishing to introduce fresh blasphemy laws; if that were to happen, the media would find it increasingly difficult to comment upon religious principles, religious practices and even religious leaders.

In January 2007, IPI appealed to then incoming United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to remind the Government of Tunisia of its international obligations to respect human rights, in particular in view of Tunisia's hosting of the United Nations-sponsored World Summit on the Information Society. The previous Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, had stated that the holding of the Summit in Tunisia offered a good opportunity for the Government of Tunisia to address various human rights concerns, including those related to freedom of opinion and expression. More than one year after the Summit the Government had clearly failed to do this.

In October 2007, IPI and other members of the Burma Action Group called on United Nations representatives to include concern for Burmese journalists on the agenda of their mission to Myanmar.

In October 2007, in a letter to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, IPI and other members of the Burma Action Group expressed their concern over the death of journalists in the recent crackdown, arrest and continued detention of members of the Burmese media, the reported suspension of private newspapers in Yangon, and the Government's cutting of access to the Internet.

In June 2008, IPI and the other members of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations expressed concern regarding a growing tendency among international and regional organizations to justify curtailing freedom of expression

in the name of avoiding offence to religions. Emphasizing that the very narrow permissible limitations on speech, such as those embodied in civil defamation laws aiming to protect the reputations of individuals, were never intended to shield religions as a whole from criticism, IPI highlighted the developments described below as part of this trend.

In March 2007, the Human Rights Council passed resolution 4/9 entitled "Combating defamation of religions". The resolution, which voices concern about the defamation of all religions, provides that the right to freedom of expression may be subject to limitations if "necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others", and for the "protection" of "respect for religions and beliefs". A similar resolution was subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2007 (resolution 62/154).

On 12 February 2008, the League of Arab States adopted a Charter on principles for organizing satellite radio and television broadcasting in the Arab world, which adopted a similar approach, stipulating that the targeted broadcasters should avoid coverage that could damage social harmony or traditional values, or that does not conform to Arab society's religious and ethical values. It also prohibits coverage that calls into question God and monotheistic religions.

In March 2008, the Organization of the Islamic Conference amended its Charter, adding a provision identifying as one of its objectives "to combat defamation of Islam".

The Human Rights Council, also in March 2008, passed a resolution, extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, primarily charged with identifying violations of these rights. The Rapporteur must now also report on instances of their abuse, where expression constitutes acts of racial or religious discrimination, adding a prosecutorial element to the established mandate of the protector of freedom of expression.

IPI noted that efforts to couch the issue as a conflict between the right to expression and the right to practise one's religion without interference or discrimination are similarly misplaced, as one does not negate the other. It therefore called on the United Nations to put an end to this erosion of the right to freedom of expression.

5. International Union of Socialist Youth (Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action: International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) is a global non-governmental organization (NGO) made up of 149 socialist, social democratic and labour youth organizations from more than 114 countries worldwide. The Union is an independent, autonomous organization, basing its activities on the promotion of socialist and social-democratic principles and working in close cooperation with Young European Socialists (ECOSY), Socialist International, Socialist International Women and trade unions, as well as in the framework of social movements and the Global Progressive Forum. As the largest youth organization in the world, IUSY is actively working to tackle the roots of problems directly and explore the paths towards lasting and viable solutions for the future.

IUSY stands for freedom and human rights, social justice and equality at all levels in society and in all aspects of life and against any form of discrimination, for democracy and against any form of totalitarianism, authoritarianism, populism and dictatorship, and for the right to self-determination, liberty and freedom of expression for all peoples, universal solidarity and political solutions to problems.

In the period 2002 to 2006, there have been changes in geographical scope; the IUSY African committee has grown and become significantly more active. As a result, two subregional cooperation platforms emerged starting from 2005 in western and eastern Africa. Positive experiences have also arisen in the Balkans and the Black Sea area, where organizations from countries of geographic, historical, cultural or linguistic proximity are dedicated to proposing solutions to issues of common political interest. In addition, organizations in the Caribbean region are in the process of shaping a similar platform initiated in 2007. As a result of these changes, the advocacy potential and organizational structure of IUSY has been significantly strengthened.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Union has not been able to participate in the meetings of the Economic and Social Council because of scarce funds. The Union has, however, taken part in some of the other major conferences and meetings. In 2005, consultative meetings were held with youth organizations to review the World Programme of Action for Youth, and IUSY participated in the consultative meetings to contribute to the review of the Programme of Action by the General Assembly. The Union also participated in the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Madrid in January 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Union participated in the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, in 2005 and in 2006, represented by its member organizations the Tibetan Youth Congress, and the Unión de Juventud de Saguia

el-Hamra y Río de Oro/Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Río de Oro.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 7: At the XXVI Congress in February 2006, in Esbjerg, Denmark, the Union adopted a position paper on sustainable development. The document, shaping its answers and proposals to the challenges of meeting the needs arising from global development, above all industrial and economic development, appears on the IUSY website and is used as a basis for advocacy by IUSY member organizations. The document takes into consideration the experiences and needs of youth organizations and activist groups worldwide, thus presenting a holistic approach to the Union's contribution to the struggle for worldwide environmental stability.

Goal 5, target 2: The IUSY Feminist Working Group organized a global meeting in connection with the IUSY World Festival 2006 in Alicante, Spain, aimed at mapping the situation concerning access to reproductive health from the point of view of youth activists all over the world and coming up with a strategy, which is still being developed, for advocating for universal access to reproductive health. Between 2005 and 2007, IUSY ran several campaigns that both followed the Union's principles and contributed to the fulfilment of some of the Millennium Development Goals.

Goal 6, targets 1 and 2: The Campaign "Fight AIDS, not people with AIDS", designed in cooperation with the Feminist and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Working Groups of the African Committee, aiming at promotion of practices for protection against the infection as well as advocacy for equal treatment (in the first place institutional, in the health-care system, etc.) of infected people.

Goal 8, target 2: The material for the Campaign "Fair trade now!" running mainly in 2005, was published on the IUSY website and distributed on a CD-ROM for organizations to translate and use for campaigning.

D. Activities in support of global principles

In the period 2005 to 2007, IUSY organized two campaigns at the global level: (a) Campaign "Home is where?" on the issue of refugees and rights of refugees; and (b) Campaign "Not for sale!", a worldwide campaign against trafficking in women.

At the European Union African Youth Summit (Lisbon, December, 2007), IUSY participated with a delegation consisting of representatives of youth organizations from African and European Union countries.

6. National Board of Catholic Women of England and Wales (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The National Board of Catholic Women of England and Wales (NBCW) is a forum for Catholic women to share their views and concerns. It actively promotes the presence, participation and responsibilities of Catholic women in the Church and in society. It works nationally and internationally, to challenge discrimination and promote the rights of women. It works ecumenically, with women of other faiths and with secular groups.

While the aims and objectives of the National Board of Catholic Women of England and Wales remain unchanged, in 2006 the Board affiliated with Andante, an alliance of Catholic women's organizations from 12 countries in Europe. This alliance of organizations representing over 1.5 million Catholic women, enables the dissemination of information and the coordination of action between the member organizations. The aims of the alliance are to work for the just participation of women in society and in church, and for the common good of all people.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

As a member organization of the Women of Faith Coalition, the Board participated in a seminar on "Protecting the girl child" held in London in February 2007. The objective of the seminar was to draw attention to the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women and its theme, "Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child".

Representatives of the Board attended a preparatory meeting, organized by the Women's National Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in London in February 2008 for United Kingdom women's non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session. Issues discussed at the meeting were financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

In December 2008, the Board, in partnership with Caritas International submitted a written statement for the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session on the theme of equal responsibilities for caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Board contributed to the production of a shadow report by the Women's National Commission in preparation for the forty-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

"Catholic Omnibus" was distributed to Catholic women throughout the United Kingdom, with many articles about the Millennium Development Goals and their implementation. In 2006, it urged organizations to work towards achieving the Goals and lifting women out of the cycle of poverty and deprivation, pointing out that there were only 10 years left for the Goals to be achieved. In 2006, the Omnibus contained an article about the importance of clean water for all and the dangers of water privatization, emphasizing the need for women in the United Kingdom to be aware of the scarcity of water in some developing countries. In 2007, it contained an article on the Millennium Development Goals calling for women to join the campaign to call on world leaders for more and better aid, stating "We want health care, education, water and sanitation for all".

Since 2004, the Board has been a member of the Trade Justice Movement, a coalition of NGOs in the United Kingdom which campaigns for improvements in trade rules for the benefit of developing countries and ran the "Make poverty history" campaign in 2005. Throughout 2005, the Board encouraged all members to raise awareness of global poverty and to promote the Millennium Development Goals. Representatives of the Board attended a rally of 250,000 people in Edinburgh at the time of the G-8 summit in Gleneagles in July 2005, demanding debt cancellation, more and better aid and trade justice. The Board submitted a public statement to the Heads of Government at the G-8 meeting in Germany in June 2007, pointing out that it was women and children who bore the brunt of poverty, and reminding them that many countries had not fulfilled the pledges made at the Gleneagles Summit in 2005.

Representatives of the organization attended the following meetings: A meeting on women development and peace was organized by the Holy See in Rome in October 2005 to mark the tenth anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women. At a meeting in London in September 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, spoke on the help needed for women asylum-seekers in Europe. The General Assembly of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations in 2006 was held on the theme "Women Peacemakers: United in Faith and Action" and included a discussion on the Millennium Development Goals. At the European Assembly of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, in September 2008 in Verona, Italy, the theme was setting women free from trafficking.